



Commissioner Deborah Kafoury, District 1

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To: Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee

Recently, our commissioners heard from a panel of Oregon experts, including First Lady Cylvia Hayes, on hunger and poverty in our state. One of their recommendations was to support the extension and expansion of the EITC. I am writing to you today in strong support of your work to both extend and expand the EITC here in Oregon.

The EITC is a critical part of the pathway out of poverty for low-income working families in Oregon. By allowing low-income workers to keep more of their wages, they can better take care of themselves and their families by meeting basic needs such as housing, transportation, and food. The basic costs of shelter and utilities here in Multnomah County can often eat up most of a low-wage family's income, leaving little for food and other necessities.

Putting more of a worker's hard-earned money into their hands will help them to pay the rent or buy groceries - further supporting local jobs and economies. Some families are also able to use the EITC funds they receive to further their education and training which enables them to advance at work and ultimately, pay for their families needs without support from the EITC.

I fully support extending this credit and the Governor's proposed increase to 8% of the federal credit included in his December budget. Enacting this legislation will have tangible results for many of our constituents. Please do all you can to support this important policy initiative.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kafoury